

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 07724 191502Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 /080 W  
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R 191414Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2128  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 7724

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, CY, UN  
SUBJECT: UN TECHNICAL CONFERENCE BECOMES FORUM FOR BICKERING  
OVER CYPRUS

1. GREEK-TURKISH ANTOGONISM SURFACED SHARPLY AT THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHIC NAMES NOW UNDERWAY IN ATHENS. WHILE DELIVERING THE CYPRUS NATIONAL REPORT YESTERDAY (AUGUST 18) ON BEHALF OF THE CYPRIOT DELEGATION, AMBASSADOR (TO GREECE) KRANIDIO-TIS DENOUNCED THE TURKISH AUTHORITIES FOR VIOLATING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS IN CYPRUS AND FOR CHANGING TRADITIONAL NAMES IN NORTHERN CYPRUS.

2. WHEN THE TURKISH DELEGATION'S TURN ARRIVED TO DELIVER ITS NATIONAL REPORT, THE TURKISH SPOKESMAN BEGAN TO REBUT THE CYPRIOT ACCUSATIONS. HE WAS INTERRUPTED BY THE OFFICER PRESIDING OVER THE CONFERENCE, PROFESSOR LYSIMAHOS MAVRIDES (PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THRACE), WHO RULED HIM OUT OF ORDER AND CLAIMED THE TURKISH DELEGATE SHOULD SPEAK SOLELY ON TURKISH AND NOT ON CYPRIOT DEVELOPMENTS. A  
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VERBAL BROUHAHA ENSUED, WITH THE TURKISH DELEGATION OBJECTING TO MAVRIDES' RULING (A RULING SUBSEQUENTLY SUSTAINED BY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY CHRIS CHRISTOPHER, THE RANKING UN SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL AT THE CONFERENCE).

3. BY WAY OF OFFERING A COMPROMISE, THE UK AND US DELEGATIONS SUGGESTED TO THE FLOOR THAT IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE

TOR SPEAKERS TO DEVIATE FROM DISCUSSING STRICTLY NATIONAL REPORTS (ITEM 7) DURING THE SESSIONS DEVOTED TO THIS AGENDA ITEM. HOWEVER, AS FOR THEMSELVES, THE SPOESMEN FOR THESE DELEGATIONS INDICATED THEY HAD QUESTIONS THEY WOULD LIKE TO ASK OF OTHER DELEGATIONS AT THE END OF THE READING OF THE NATIONAL REPORTS. PERHAPS, THE UK AND US REPRESENTATIVES CONTINUED, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO POSTPONE FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THE PRESENT ISSUE UNTIL THEN, ALLOWING THE NORMAL PROCEDURE OF READING OTHER NATIONAL REPORTS TO CONTINUE. AFTER THIS FLARE-UP, YESTERDAY'S PROCEEDINGS CONTINUED WITHOUT FURTHER ADO.

4. COMMENT: THE US DELEGATION HAS INFORMED US THAT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER HAS THREATENED TO POSTPONE THE NEXT ITEM 7 SESSION, NOW SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 24, UNLESS AND UNTIL THE GREEKS, THE TURKS AND THE CYPRIOTS WORK OUT THEIR DIFFERENCES IN PRIVATE. CHRISTOPHER IS ANXIOUS TO AVOID HAVING THIS ESSENTIALLY TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ENGAGE IN POLITICAL BICKERING AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE EXPECTATION IS THAT SOME KIND OF UNDERSTANDING MAY BE REACHED SO THAT THE NEXT ITEM 7 SESSION CAN PROCEED AS SCHEDULED.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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